

Have Miracles Ceased?

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Much disputing about the question of “have miracles ceased?” stems from the difference in definition as to what a miracle is. Many see miracles on every hand, e.g., a beautiful sunrise, the birth of a child, recovery from disease or illness. Truly God is responsible for all these wonderful things that we may observe. In fact, God is responsible for “every good and perfect gift” (James 1:17). But, there are phenomena through the centuries that God has chosen to perform not through *natural means* but through *supernatural means*, i.e., a miracle. A miracle is defined as “a supernatural act of God.” A more involved definition of a miracle would be “the supernatural intervention of God in the affairs of men to such an extent that the occurrence can only be attributed to God.” The Creation, the crossing of the Red Sea, the collapse of the walls of Jericho, the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dreams, the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, leprosy cleansed, walking on the water, the dead raised, and many, many more examples can be given. These events are clearly distinct from a person having surgery or taking powerful medicines and getting better. Much disputing ceases when a proper definition of what a miracle is can be reached.

A look at three key verses should be convincing that miracles have indeed ceased today. One, Micah 7:15, “According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I show unto him marvellous things.” “Marvellous things” are taken to refer to miraculous things. Here’s your answer as to the duration of miracles. What was the duration of the “coming out of the land of Egypt”? 40 years. From the personal ministry of Jesus Christ to the destruction of the Temple at Jerusalem was approximately 40 years. Surely, this is something to think about in answer to the question “have miracles ceased?”

Two, here we have two verses, Mark 16:20 and Hebrews 2:3-4, which show the purpose for the signs and wonders, i.e., miracles, was to confirm the Word of God. Mark 16:20, “And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.” And, Hebrews 2:3-4, “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?” Since the miracles confirm the Word of God and since the Word of God is complete, then the purpose for which the Bible says miracles was given has been satisfied. That is, miracles have ceased. (Consider the other side of this position taken by those who claim miracles continue. It is that the Word of God has *not* yet been confirmed. Many will see the danger of taking this position against the revealed will of God).

Three, 1 Corinthians 13:8-10, “Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.” The question here resolves around the meaning of “that which is perfect.” Allowing the Bible to answer, the only acceptable answer comes from James 1:25, “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his

deed.” The “perfect law of liberty” is “that which is perfect” because in 1 Corinthians 13:8-10 Paul is speaking of matters of revelation, i.e., the written word of God being completed, and in James 1:25 James is discussing the completion of that record and its character “that which is perfect.”

Therefore, miracles have ceased today because the time period the prophet Micah prophesied regarding has occurred, the Word of God has been confirmed, and the Word of God is complete or perfect. Enjoy the phenomena occurring in the natural world, and respect the supernatural explanation of miracles found in the Bible, the miracle of the ages.